MYRA KRAFT TYP
TRANSITIONAL YEAR PROGRAM
AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
In 1948, Brandeis University opened its doors as a place for research and learning for all who valued academic excellence. Its founding came at a time when educational opportunities were not readily available for women, immigrants, and members of religious and racial minorities. Today, Brandeis remains devoted to educating students in the spirit of changing the world for the better.

Named in honor of humanitarian Myra Kraft ’64, who believed in providing the resources that young people need to succeed, the Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program (TYP) is an empowering educational experience. The program supports students who have shown academic promise, tenacity, leadership and resilience in their life experiences but have had limitations to their precollege academic opportunities. Established in 1968 in the wake of Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, the program is an integral part of the university’s enduring commitment to social justice.

Each year, 20 intelligent and talented students are admitted to Brandeis through the TYP. The mission of the TYP is to provide these students with life-changing opportunities to explore new possibilities and participate in Brandeis’ collective pursuit of knowledge.

Students who become Brandeis undergraduates as members of the TYP are added to the university’s thousands of living testimonies of true ambition, perseverance, courage and triumph.

**History of the TYP**

To learn more about the history of the program, visit [go.brandeis.edu/typhistory](http://go.brandeis.edu/typhistory).

**“Now that I’ve gone through the program, I’m confident, I can analyze things better, and I know that no one can tell me again — ever again — that I can’t do something.”** Mohamed Sidique ’15
The TYP’s primary focus is to prepare students for academic success in their undergraduate careers at Brandeis. The program is structured around small classes, rigorous academics and strong personal support. In their first year at Brandeis, TYP students take a mix of Brandeis undergraduate courses and TYP-exclusive courses designed at the college level. The academic program consists of:

- Two semesters of TYP writing
- Two semesters of TYP quantitative reasoning
- Two semesters of TYP social science
- One semester of TYP science
- One semester of TYP computer science
- One Brandeis undergraduate elective course per semester

As members of the Brandeis community, TYP students have access to more than 260 student clubs and organizations. They typically graduate within four or five years.

“TYP was exactly what I needed: to go to a place where I see the same people and they’re going to care as much today as they did yesterday.”

Taisha Sturdivant ’11
In high school, there were circumstances that could have gotten in the way of my pursuit of a college degree. I grew up with five siblings in a single-parent household and had to care for my younger siblings after school. My high school was also undergoing some major transitions that made it difficult to focus in school. Even with these potential obstacles, I made sure that I continued to do well academically and remained committed to my goal of attending college.

When it came time to apply to colleges, I was interested in Brandeis but felt discouraged due to the lack of academic resources I had access to at that point. However, one counselor at my school knew about the TYP and knew that students like me could succeed at Brandeis through this program. He encouraged me to take this route.

The TYP is a learning experience that has aided in my growth as a person and as a student. It’s rigorous enough to push students to their full potential, and the support system is enormous. The sense of community I have experienced within the TYP and with other students who have completed the program has been tremendously helpful in ensuring my academic success and making me feel comfortable on campus.

Since joining the TYP, not only have I done well academically as an English major, I have also been active in the Women of Color Alliance, performed in the Culture X show, worked in the Admissions Office, coordinated TYP events and mentored other students. I am very glad to have started my academic career at Brandeis in the TYP.
I grew up as a foster child in a trailer park in one of the smallest towns in Rhode Island. I lived in a total of 16 group homes, so my educational situation was a mess. My transcripts were often lost, and I was always moving away from friends. For me, going to college — especially a very good college — had always been a dream that felt unrealistic, but I used my hardships as motivation to succeed.

As I faced the challenging transitions of being in foster care, school became my savior. College was the light at the end of my tunnel. It was my way of working toward building a better life for myself. Soon enough, my grades surpassed those of most of my peers, and my college adviser told me about Brandeis and the possibility of applying through the TYP. Brandeis soon became my dream school — my ticket out of the system and into a new world of success.

So many people applied, and yet I was one of the 20 who were admitted. Having this new hope and excitement for a positive challenge inspires me to become so much more than I ever dreamed of. I’m currently in my third year at Brandeis, and my goal is to pursue a double major in business and health: science, society and policy, as well as a minor in computer science. I had never really had dreams or a sense of direction until I heard about Brandeis, and now I can’t stop moving forward toward success.
Brandeis graduates have gone on to distinguish themselves at the highest levels in virtually every field and discipline. Among Brandeis alumni are heads of state and captains of industry; Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists and Emmy Award-winning actors; best-selling authors and acclaimed playwrights; and university presidents and renowned public servants. Brandeis’ Hiatt Career Center is available to help students from their first year on campus with exploring career options, preparing for interviews and much more. Furthermore, Brandeisians are regularly accepted into advanced degree programs at the best colleges and universities across the country.

**TYP alumni include:**

- **Ron Glover ’73**, of Roxbury, Mass., Vice President of Diversity and Workforce Programs at IBM
- **Hon. Norma Sanchez-Figueroa ’84**, of Hartford, Conn., Family Support Magistrate in the Connecticut Superior Court
- **Pedro Fontes ’00**, of Brockton, Mass., Complex Business Development Manager at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
- **Tameka Pettigrew ’02**, of Brooklyn, N.Y., President of Precise Staffing Group
- **Diony Elias ’04**, of the Bronx, N.Y., Founder and President of New City Investment Solutions
- **Chanda Wolf ’05**, of Lowell, Mass., Assistant District Attorney at Middlesex County District Attorney’s Office

**TYP in Action**

Watch the stories of Taisha Sturdivant ’11 and Mohamed Sidique ’15 at go.brandeis.edu/typstories.
Education to me is more than just a requirement to get ahead in life; it is also a way to obtain knowledge, gain respect, create opportunities and make yourself a more well-rounded person. I lived with my mother in a single-parent household growing up. If my mom changed jobs, sometimes that meant we would have to move. Even though my mother could not afford private school, she would always try to move us close to the best public school in the area. The high school I ultimately graduated from had a good record for college placement, and the counselors were helpful, but their time was stretched thin over large student caseloads.

When it came time for me to attend college, I could not afford to go, so I began working full-time to save up. Through working full-time without a college degree and reviewing the biographies of the executives and management at my company, I knew that attending Brandeis would make a major difference in the opportunities available to me.

Since graduating in 2006 with a major in economics, I have worked in the finance industry, initially with State Street Bank & Trust as a fund accountant. After enjoying some success in that position, I moved on to work for Chase Bank as a finance analyst. I credit the Transitional Year Program with embracing me as an individual, helping me develop my study skills, reinforcing my confidence and broadening my horizons.
Each year, 20 students are admitted to Brandeis through the Transitional Year Program. Every applicant must be projected to complete high school or its equivalent (e.g., earning a GED) prior to the start of the academic year.

**Applicants must submit the following materials by March 1**

1. Common Application (please select Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program under student status).
2. Official high-school transcript and/or GED certificate.
3. Three letters of recommendation, preferably from teachers, counselors, mentors, employers or religious leaders.
4. A short statement indicating your interest in the TYP and explaining why you are a good candidate for the program.
5. One selection from our test-flexible options (see our policy online).

TYP applicants may also have the opportunity to schedule an interview on campus. Please contact the Admissions Office about the availability of interviews.

**Financial Aid**

To apply for need-based financial aid, you must submit the CSS PROFILE and FAFSA by March 1. Visit [profileonline.collegeboard.com](http://profileonline.collegeboard.com) and [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to find these forms. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Office of Student Financial Services.

**Contact Us**

Brandeis Admissions Office  
781-736-3500  
admissions@brandeis.edu  
www.brandeis.edu/admissions

Erika Smith, Director of TYP  
781-736-3470  
typ@brandeis.edu  
go.brandeis.edu/TYP

Office of Student Financial Services  
781-736-3700  
sfs@brandeis.edu  
www.brandeis.edu/sfs